



the VOYAGER



Volume 32, Number 2

FEBRUARY, 2021

UNION ELECTIONS COMING APRIL Nominations to be held during March Meeting, Saturday 20th at 2:00 PM

Nominations will be held for President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Guide, Two Guards, Three Trustees, and a Grievance Representative for each department.

The full eligibility requirements for nominees are laid out in the Union Constitution and the Local Union Elections Manual, Article VII section 9; an abbreviated form of the requirements is presented here. Some rules and requirements of previous years have been adjusted due to the cancellation of regular meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Member must have been in continuous good standing for the 24 months immediately preceding the month in which the election is held. A Member who has transferred from one Local Union to another Local Union within the 24 month period prior to the election is permitted to count their time in good standing with their previous Union.

The Member must be a member of the department or zone in which they wish to run, in the case of Grievance Committee-Persons.

Tellers for the upcoming election will be selected during the nomination meeting. Both the nominations and the election will be held in-person and on-site at the Union Hall. There will be no mail-in nominations or ballots.

More detail of the requirements and reasons above can be found in the Manual. You may obtain a copy of the Manual prior to the nominations from the Financial Secretary at the Union Hall, 4306 Huntington Ave. After the nominations you must contact the Tellers Committee.

The Union is very specific about this election and there are many guidelines that must be followed. It is definitely our intent to follow these rules and to assist you with any questions and concerns to the best of our ability.

Keep Up Your Guard!



Maintain 6 feet of Distance between Yourself and Others.

Wear Your Cloth Face Covering while in Public.

YOU MUST WEAR YOUR FACEMASK WHILE IN THE UNION HALL!



Executive Board
 President-Charles Spivey
 Vice President-Linwood Parrish
 Recording Secretary-Ashley Seabrook
 Financial Secretary-Verna Chamberliss
 Treasurer -Carolyn Ezell
 Guide-Phyllis Sessoms
 Guard-Chris Puckett
 Guard -Gloria Patterson
 Trustee-Raymond Lewis
 Trustee -Victor Boone
 Trustee-Alycia Allen
 Grievance Chairman-Harvey Bowden

Office

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Voyager E-mail: voyager@uswa.hrcoxmail.com

Office Hours: Daily 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

United Steelworkers AFL-CIO-CLC

District Director - Ernest(Billy) Thompson

International Officers

Thomas Conway, President • John Shinn, Sec/Treasurer
 David McCall, Vice-President, Administration
 Fred Redmond, Vice-President, Human Affairs
www.usw8888.com

Office: Five Gateway Center, Pittsburgh, PA 15222



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Deadline Reminder:

Please remember that all information, articles and material to be included in the next "Voyager" must be delivered in writing to the Union Hall or emailed by Thursday, February 25, 2021 "The Voyager" email address is: voyager@uswa.hrcoxmail.com



From the
President's Desk
 Charles Spivey

Greetings Union Brothers and Sisters:

I hope this letter finds you in good health and a positive mind-set. After the year we had last year, dealing with COVID-19, we all are hoping for a better year. Last month sent a positive message of hope for us all. The Company announced they would be receiving vaccinations for all employees that want one, as soon as they become available. I was asked to volunteer to receive the vaccine as a gesture to show how safe the vaccination is. Over the last ten months of fear for our health and the health of our family, I was willing to try in an effort to help reduce the spread of the virus. I miss coming to the gates talking to our members and coming into the yard when I'm allowed to visit. I definitely didn't want to come in and be a carrier.

Dealing with this virus was a big challenge for the Local. I've reached out to our past President and other current leaders for advice. There were few answers to help me. No one has ever had to deal with something of this nature before. With your help we are doing the best we know to survive. Yes, I will be the first to admit, in some accounts, we should have done some things differently. Would it have made a difference? I don't know. I know with the help of the Lord, we did the best we knew to survive. There was not contractual language available to give guidance to govern the spread of this pandemic. Through much prayers and great hope, we trust this is nearing an end. I'm ready to do some normal things of life like travel, cookouts, work in a safe environment and see all of you face-to-face.

Continued on Page 3

COVID-19 Vaccine Coming to Shipyard

The year 2021 is full of events for 8888. January, we celebrated Martin Luther King holiday. February we are celebrating Black History month. March is National Women's month. April we have our on-site Local Officers elections. May is installation of the elected officers and Memorial Day. June is tentatively the election of the Negotiating Committee. July is Independence Day. August is training for CAT in preparation for negotiations. September is Labor Day. October is tentatively the beginning of negotiations for the new contract. November is USW National Officers Elections and expiration of the Current Labor Agreement. Hopefully, we will ratify a new contract at the same time. With your strong support we should get it done. Also, we have Thanksgiving, This will be a great time to celebrate with a new contract. December we will celebrate Christmas.

We have a full calendar of events planned for this year. We need everyone's help. We need to unite ourselves and recruit new members. We need your voice to be heard in preparation of a stronger and better Labor Agreement. An Agreement that gives us language and guidance in dealing with issues in the workplace that impacts personal lives and the job itself. An Agreement with benefits that provides adequate coverage for the family. We must start now building the solidarity needed to be successful in November.

Call or come by the Hall to leave me a message. I'll get back with you, 757-247-5291.

Solidarity Forever, USW 8888

Thank you.

**Charles Spivey
USW 8888 President**



Newport News Shipbuilding has acquired doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine and will provide it to full-time employees free of charge.

The distribution model is on-going and will begin with Master ShipBuilders (those with more than 40 years of service) and employees over 60 years of age. Also included with the employees initially scheduled will be essential departments and first responders.

Scheduling will be on-going and handled through management, contact your supervisor about requesting a vaccine. Vaccinations will take place at the Old Apprentice School Gymnasium (Bldg. 601) transportation to and from the site will be provided and workers who take the vaccine during work hours will be paid for the time it takes (up to 1.5 hours). You must have your badge and schedule ticket from your supervisor in order to receive the vaccine.

On receiving your first dose, you will be given a ticket informing you of your time to receive the second. It is vital that you receive the second dose on time.

For any questions call the COVID hot line **1-844-243-8749** and select Opt. 6.



Special Benefits Committee

Verna M. Chamberliss, Chair, X42



Information available at your Local Union Hall
Every Thursday 8 AM – 4:30 PM
**New and Returning Union Members,
You have 45 days from joining to apply.**

The two Plans offered with no rate or benefit changes are
Delta Dental PPO and Delta Dental EPO Plan.

USW LOCAL 8888
4306 Huntington Avenue
Newport News, VA 23607

Contact Special Benefits at 757-247-5291 ext 118



Aflac BENEFITS FOR USW LOCAL 8888 New Member Enrollment

<p>ALL AFLAC POLICIES PAY CASH BENEFITS</p> <p>DIRECTLY TO THE POLICYHOLDER</p>	<p>Disability – Pays from 1st Day for accidents – after 7 days for Sickness.</p>
<p>Hospital Plan – pays cash benefits to you when confined in the hospital for any reason.</p>	<p>Critical Illness - Pays \$15,000 for listed critical illnesses (Heart Attack – Stroke – Cancer, etc.)</p> <p>Accident - pays benefits for covered accidents that happen on or off the job.</p>

**New and Returning Union Members,
You have 45 days from joining to apply.**

Information Available at your Union Hall – every Thursday – 8 AM to 4:30 PM

This enrollment is for Union Members

Phone: (757) 247 – 5291 ext. 118



Union College Benefit



There is a program in place for all dues paying members of the United SteelWorkers (USW) and the Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees (SOAR), as well as their families, to receive a college education and Associates Degree free of charge. This is thanks to a partnership with Eastern Gateway Community College piloted by David McCall and our Union brothers and sisters in district one.

Classes Start March 29th, 2021

Go to: freecollege.usw.org
Or call: (888)590-9009

Enrolling Now!

There is a new partnership between the United SteelWorkers and Central State University of Ohio to continue your education with a greatly discounted, or even free, Bachelor's Degree program. For more information-

Go to: www.unionlowcostdegrees.org
Or call: (888)897-9671

Classes Start March 29th, 2021

Get Started Today!

FEBRUARY, 2021

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Virginia Peninsula Food Bank thanks Local 8888 SOAR for support during 2020



United Way Campaign BETTER TOGETHER

Dear Friends:

During this season of giving, the gift of a meal is the most precious gift you can give. It is particularly important during the current health crisis when so many more individuals are reaching out for help, many for the very first time.

Through your recent contribution, you understood this and provided hope to children, families, veterans, and seniors who may not have otherwise been able to enjoy this holiday season. They may have been concerned about keeping the heat on. They may have been wondering how they would be able to fill their gas tanks to get to work. They may have skipped much needed prescription medicines. When you gave your gift to the Foodbank you showed you care about the less fortunate in our community.

Thank you for being a partner in providing nourishment and hope to these children, families, veterans, and seniors across the greater Peninsula. Your generosity has provided us the means to purchase the additional food needed this year to serve the community.

Warmly,
Karen L. Joyner
Chief Executive Officer



The NNS United Way 'Better Together' Campaign will end February 19, 2021. Donating to the United Way helps our friends, neighbors, and family members in need. Due to COVID-19, the need in our community is greater than ever. United Way and their 40+ partner agencies are working together to tackle community issues like affordable housing, access to healthy food, making sure all kids are ready for school and supported throughout their school year, as well as addressing COVID related issues like child care assistance and Rent and Mortgage relief.

When you give to the United Way Campaign 100% of your donation goes back into the community!

Give today and help those in need. Visit <https://nns.yourcause.com/> to make a donation to United Way or charity of your choice (MyID required) or email us at UnitedWay@hii-nns.com with questions.

United Way is a nonprofit organizations that helps other nonprofits with funding and advocating on their behalf as well as serving as a convener in the community to help identify problems and initiate collective solutions.

**<https://www.uwvp.org/>
(757)873-9328**



Political Action Committee

Gene E. Magruder,
X33, Chair

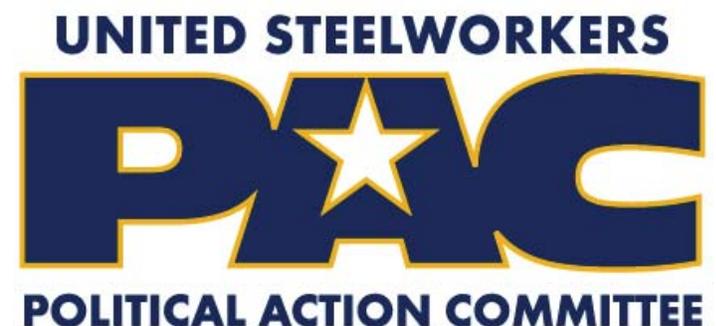
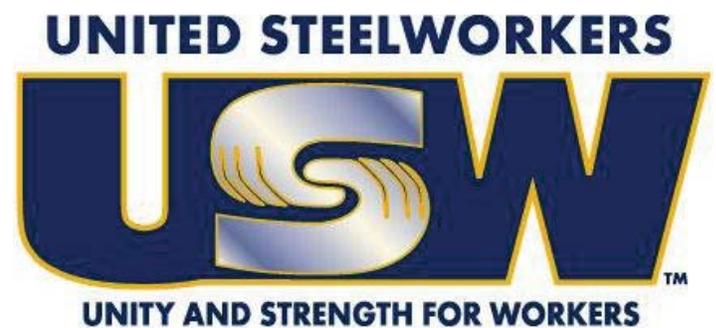
Welcome to 2021 my fellow shipbuilders. I look at this year with more optimism than 2020 for many reasons. With any luck we will be able to return to our restaurants, bars, churches, cookouts, concerts and sporting events. It will take a lot of cooperation from everyone to achieve this but it is more possible than in 2020.

Of course in Virginia there is always politics. We vote every year and sometimes 2 or 3 times a year. This year will be no different with primaries in June for candidates seeking the governorship, Lt. Governorship, and Attorney General. Every Delegate position is up for re-election also in the General Assembly.

This year our General Assembly has been very busy, and very virtual in considering legislation. Among pieces of legislation that the unions have been lobbying, has been legislation covering repetitive injuries in the workplace. This is the second year in a row for this legislation and as we point out to our representatives we are the only state in the United States where these injuries are not covered by worker's compensation.

Other interesting legislation that the unions are working on include workers protections from heat exhaustion, workers rights to sick leave, workers rights to overtime pay, workers rights to refuse unsafe working conditions, assuring Virginia purchases safety equipment from USA companies and workers, and assuring that all infrastructure projects in the state of Virginia are given only to companies using American workers. There are more pieces of legislation we are following and hoping to get passed. Since this is a short session of 30 days, unless extended by the Governor the March Voyager or April Voyager will cover any bills that were passed which affect our workforce.

When one complains about the union being involved in politics, one should remember if we do not have a seat at the table then the enemies of workers' rights get free reign over all legislation passed. That is not in our best interest for wages, benefits, or safety.



BUILDING TO START ON MARY WINSTON JACKSON NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER



The work of four years by your United SteelWorkers Local 8888 and other community leaders is coming to fruition. In 2017 we lead a petition to honor our local hero Mary Jackson, the first African American Woman Engineer in the American Space Program, by naming a street, park or public center for her. Mary Jackson was born and lived in Hampton. She broke through many barriers in her career, clearing the way for those who would follow in her footsteps.

Last March the final design of the new Mary Winston Jackson Neighborhood Center were accepted, and this year construction is set to begin. It is scheduled to open next spring.

The center's design features a full-sized gymnasium, a kitchen, meeting areas and open spaces, as well as parking.

See Coverage of the event at:
<https://bit.ly/3tI6iYh>



Today, the soul of Mary Jackson has come home to the community that raised her and later revered her. United Steelworkers Local 8888 is proud to be part of the ground-breaking ceremony for the new Mary W. Jackson Neighborhood Center in the Hampton community she loved dearly.

Throughout her prolific career, Mary Jackson broke new ground and opened doors for thousands to follow. It wasn't easy, though. As a Black woman in the South, she endured segregated rest rooms and cafeterias and other indignities in the workplace. She persevered and eventually helped put the first American astronaut into space as NASA's first Black female engineer. Millions around the world were exposed to Mary Jackson's genius and proud resolve in the 2016 film "Hidden Figures."

Thankfully, she is hidden no more in her hometown. The importance of naming of this center for an iconic African American woman cannot be overstated. For too long, the images and successes of Black women have been devalued or erased from our national and local history. Now, young girls and female students of all colors will be able to see and feel a connected to a city facility that validates their dreams and says the lives of Black women really do matter.

Local 8888 is proud our petition drive four years ago ignited this fitting tribute to Mary Jackson. We collected more than 2,500 signatures, lobbied city hall, partnered with social groups like Ms. Jackson's sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha, and met with city planners This is a defining achievement for our union. I want to thank our members who were determined to see something meaningful and dignified for Mary Jackson. I also want to recognize Ms. Donna Little, a longtime member of Local 8888 and a fierce community advocate who worked tirelessly to have a neighborhood center rebuilt in her Olde Hampton community.

I will always remember this day, because it is part of the celebration of Black excellence at a time when our nation is straining to find unity and reconciliation. Honoring this strong Black woman for her genius and service has brought us together as a proud community. And that's how our ancestor, Mary Jackson, would want it.

Rev. Charles Spivey
USW Local 8888 President



IN MEMORIAM

Darnell Anthony

November 11, 1949 ~ December 30, 2020

George Washington Carver High Class of 1969

United States Navy Veteran 6 years

Ivy Baptist Church, Usher and local Missionary

Newport News Shipbuilding (Formerly Huntington Ingalls/

Newport News Shipyard) - 45 Years

USW Local 8888 Vice President, Multiple Committees,

Workers Rights and Civil Rights Leader



Donnel Robinson

January 26, 1970 ~ December 28, 2020

Liberty Baptist Church, Smithfield Virginia

**Newport News Shipbuilding (Formerly
Huntington Ingalls) - 10 years**



**We said goodbye to another fellow
SteelWorker this past month. His family
has asked for privacy as they mourn,
and we honor their request.
Our prayers are with them.**

**Our condolences to the family and
friends of Samuel Porter on his passing.**

Announcements

BIRTHDAYS

Vanessa Burgess-Minggia(X43)
Ashley Seabrook(O53)
Kevin Fowler(X32), Tina Smith-Jones(X31)

CONGRATULATIONS

To Anthony Ellison(X11) on his retirement
after 35 years of service.
To Philip McCoy(X33) on his retirement
after 42 years of service.
To Balinda and Butch Cassidy
on their 21st Anniversary.



REMINDER

**If you quarantine due to suspected exposure to COVID-19
you may choose to cover any lost time with your
Personal Time (PT) or Annual Leave (AL)**

Resources For SteelWorkers

USW International
COVID-19
Resources Page

www.usw.org/members/coronavirus-resources

COVID-19 Phone Line
Opt. 6 for Vaccine Questions

1-844-243-8749

TELADOC
24/7, 365 Doctor Consultation
\$10 Fee Waived for General Medicine and Behavior Consultations

teladoc.com
1-800-835-2362

Sickness and Accident
Leave of Absence

688-3800

FMLA and COVID-19 Medical Leave
May Require Documentation
Contact Labor Relations

688-8006

Kashable
Payroll Deduction Loans
From \$250 - \$20,000

www.kashable.com
646-663-4353
support@kashable.com

**If you take a COVID test for any reason:
You MUST call the hotline to report,
and follow the company's official guidelines.**

**Saturday, Feb 20, 2021
Monthly Membership Meeting
~CANCELED~**

**Deadline for
"Voyager" will be Feb 25, 2021**

HAPPY PRESIDENT'S DAY



Monday Feb 15, 2021

UNITED STEELWORKERS

WOS

WOMEN OF STEEL

**Meeting Sat, Feb 20
Behind the Union Hall
Noon**

****IMPORTANT****

Union members must notify the Union to
terminate coverage.

If you terminate your membership and/or employment, retire,
become salaried, go out on Sick/
Accident/ disability or
no longer want Dental/Aflac coverage.

INJURED AT THE SHIPYARD?

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757.622.5000

We've fought and won thousands of cases for injured shipyard workers.

When you are injured, your employer is no longer calling the shots on your workers' compensation claim - its large corporate insurance company is. That's why you need a serious law firm with the size, reputation, and experience to fight for you and win your case. For decades, we've been helping injured shipyard workers get the compensation they deserve. If you want the best decision at the end of your case, make the best decision now.

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COMMUNITY MORE
THAN 19 YEARS



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Counselors at law



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*Also licensed in Washington DC
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